(b) whether transporters have blocked the highways in September 2002 and demanded adequate forces along the highways for their safety; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed by Government to ensure that Manipur is not cut off from rest of the country in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Manipur is connected to the rest of the country by NH-39, NH-53 and NH-150 respectively.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Provision of security is a State subject. The State Government of Manipur has intimated that necessary security measures have been taken by them.

Central assistance to Chhattisgarh for roads

†2344. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount sanctioned under the Central assistance during the year 2002 for Chhattisgarh for construction of culverts and bridges, road renovation, levelling, improving the surface, broadening, four laning, side drain work, plantation and sign boards; and

(b) the number of works, still pending and by when, the sanction is to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Rs. 43.72 crore have been allotted for the development of National Highways in the State of Chhattisgarh during current financial year against the total sanctioned ongoing works worth Rs. 78.06 crore.

(b) Since the permissible limit of sanction has been exceeded, further sanction is not possible at this stage.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.